



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
COMMUNICATIONS

# NEWS

CONTACT: SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS 316-660-9370 FAX: 316-383-7509

August 15, 2002

Contact: Kristi Zukovich  
316-660-9370

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **KDHE No Longer Collecting Dead Birds**

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has stopped collecting and testing dead birds from areas where the West Nile Virus has been confirmed in two or more dead birds. Sedgwick County is among these locations.

Kansas health officials have been monitoring mosquitoes, birds and horses for several months in anticipation of the disease spreading into Kansas. The basic purpose of testing dead birds was to see whether the virus has reached Kansas. Since the West Nile Virus has been confirmed in Sedgwick County, it is no longer necessary to continue testing.

Instead of reporting dead birds to the KDHE or to the Sedgwick County Health Department, people should follow these steps to remove the birds from their property:

- Do not handle a dead bird with bare hands, use gloves or other protection. Though humans cannot contract the virus from birds, birds can carry other diseases that can affect humans.
- Get two plastic bags (grocery or trash bags will work).
- Use the first plastic bag to pick up the bird and then place the bird and first bag into the second plastic bag.
- Tie the plastic bag into a knot and throw away in an outdoor trashcan.

For more information contact the KDHE hotline at (866) 452-7810.

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